

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
RURAL DEVELOPMENT  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4314  
ANSWERED ON:20.02.2014  
MOU BETWEEN NRLM AND DIGITAL GREEN  
Majhi Shri Pradeep Kumar

**Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether any Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the National Rural Livelihoods Mission (NRLM) and Digital Green, a Microsoft research project has been signed in the recent past;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the salient features of the said MoU; and
- (d) the manner in which NRLM is likely to be benefited from the implementation of said MoU?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI PRADEEP JAIN 'ADITYA')

(a) Yes, Madam.

(b) to (d) National Rural Livelihoods Promotion Society (NRLPS) has been set up by the Ministry of Rural Development, Government of India to provide technical support to National Rural Livelihoods Mission (NRLM). NRLM is the flagship livelihood program of the Ministry which aims for social mobilization and sustainable livelihood promotion with over a hundred million rural poor households by building their institutions and establishing linkages with multiple stakeholders to eliminate abject poverty from the country in a time bound manner.

Digital Green Trust (Digital Green) is a charitable trust registered in India, builds and deploys information and communication technologies (ICT) to amplify the effectiveness of development efforts around the world to effect sustained social change. Its approach combines technology and social organization to share locally relevant livelihoods practices among rural communities in a cost effective manner.

A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) has been signed between NRLPS and Digital Green on 28th January, 2014. This is a no cost partnership between NRLPS and Digital Green where Digital Green will act as the National Support Organization (NSO) for "ICT Support to Livelihoods". The MoU will be valid for the period of 3 years from the date of signing i.e. from 28th January, 2014 upto 27th January, 2017.

Digital Green as a partner will be broadly responsible for supporting NRLM in four areas:

1. Knowledge management platform development – Developing process and architecture for identifying the locally relevant best practices and technologies.
2. Training and capacity building support – Help NRLPS, State Rural Livelihood Missions (SRLMs) and partners to build a cadre of master resource persons within partner organizations, who will be responsible for managing and sustaining activities associated with Digital Green's approach.
3. Quality assurance support – Engaging external consultants and academic researchers to provide support on aspects like impact assessments and technology development.
4. Technology support – Support integration of NRLM's Management Information System (MIS) and those of its partners and provide complementary support services.

Digital Green will be responsible for arranging the financial resources required for the running and managing the National Support Organization for the implementation of MoU. The MoU can be terminated by either side with a written notice of 90 days showing adequate reason.